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Dr. Terry—St. Louis Bird Watcher



DR. TERRY IN 1937

SHORTLY after the death of the late Dr. Robert James Terry his children turned over to the president of our St. Louis Audubon Society a large cardboard box. It contained some papers and mementoes, but mostly correspondence, all related to conservation, the Audubon Society of Missouri and the St. Louis Bird Club (later to become the St. Louis Audubon Society).

THE material covers over half a century of memorabilia. Dr. Mildred Trotter, an associate of Dr. Terry at the Washington University School of Medicine and a member of the Board of Directors of the St. Louis Audubon Society, has painstakingly sorted the papers and written an historical account of Dr. Terry and his contributions to the origins and development of the aforementioned ornithological groups.

THE editors are devoting the current issue of the Bulletin to the publication of this invaluable record.

Dr. Terry—St. Louis Bird Watcher

By Mildred Trotter

Robert James Terry was born in St. Louis at 2728 Washington Avenue on January 24, 1871. But for occasional brief periods he lived in his native city until 1958 when he went to Weston, Massachusetts, to be near his daughter, Celeste. He died in Massachusetts on April 18, 1966; his body was brought back to Missouri, in accord with his wish, to be used for anatomical study by freshmen medical students. When he was nine years old the family moved to Compton Hill and he began 10 years' attendance at Smith Academy from which he was admitted to Cornell University as a sophomore in 1890. After 2 years he returned to St. Louis to study at the Missouri Medical College which awarded him the M.D. degree in 1895. During the next four years he was an assistant and then demonstrator in anatomy at the College, an intern at the St. Louis Female Hospital, and a post-graduate student in the Anatomical Department of the University of Edinburgh. In 1899 the Missouri Medical College became a part of the Medical Department of Washington University and Dr. Terry was appointed assistant professor of anatomy; the next year he became professor and head of the department. He received the A.B. degree from Washington University in 1901 and two years later studied at the University of Freiburg. He was an Austin teaching fellow at Harvard in 1906-07. In spite of these years away from St. Louis, his appointment at Washington University was continuous from 1899 until his retirement in 1941 when he became professor emeritus.

Dr. Terry was an ardent anatomist both in developing the subject and in teaching it. He was recognized in both the United States and Europe as one of the leaders in the field. His students, including his son, Robert, now in medicine in Nashville, Tennessee, appreciated his high standards and efforts to help each realize his fullest potential. They expressed gratitude repeatedly in various ways: referred to him as "Uncle Bob"; named sons for him; dedicated books to him; contributed his portrait to the School (where it now hangs in the Library); established a lectureship in his name; and on his ninetieth birthday deluged him with greetings, so overwhelming to the Weston, Massachusetts Post-Office that extra carriers were engaged to make the deliveries.

Dr. Terry's devotion to Washington University and his consuming interest in anatomy and the Medical School did not lead him into a university-cloistered existence. Rather, his interests were widespread and diverse. He loved music and played the violin — after retirement he had weekly lessons for several years and told about his teacher, a member of the Symphony Orchestra, whacking him over the knuckles when he played a sour note. He was always interested in botany and developed an extensive garden of wild flowers native to Missouri in the acreage surrounding "Terry Hut" in Crescent, Missouri, where his son, Charles, now lives. Another focus of his interests was the Missouri Historical Society; in its Bulletin may be found a recounting of his "Memories of a long life in St. Louis", published in three installments in 1955-56. More than a quarter of a century ago he began to promote the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, which achieved visible form barely in time for him to see it featured in the city's bi-centennial celebration, 1964-66.

The extra-curricular activity from which Dr. Terry probably derived the most enduring pleasure in both experience and accomplishment was the study of birds, coupled with efforts to promote appreciation and protection of them. He was a founding member of the Audubon Society of Missouri and a few years later became the moving spirit in organizing the St. Louis Bird Club. For nearly half a century he worked hard to promote the aims of both organizations, always mindful of the broader scope of conservation. Our Society was not oblivious of the successes of his efforts for in 1950 it awarded Dr. Terry a Conservation Citation for Meritorious Service and a silver cup. Fortunately he kept many records pertaining to these organizations. All this material was given to us by his daughter and sons following his death. It provides some remarkable details of the early history of his efforts directed toward conservation and the beginnings and development of our ornithological organizations which we are wont to take for granted.

The Audubon Society of Missouri

The earliest record in The Box is of minutes of a meeting of the Audubon Society of Missouri, dated August 15, 1901, signed by August Reese, Secretary, and approved by Walter J. Blakely, President. The meeting was held in the office of Soni T. Price, Security Building, St. Louis at 3:00 p.m. for the chief purpose of adopting as its constitution the "Articles of Association of the Audubon Society of Missouri" as granted by the Circuit Court at its June term and certified to by Henry Trall, Clerk of Circuit Court, August 6, 1901. A booklet presenting the Articles of the Association, By-Laws, and Officers, and a statement outlining work for the Audubon Society by August Reese, Deputy Game and Fish Warden, together with a list of two patrons, 21 life members and 51 honorary vice-presidents (including Dr. Terry) is dated 1902. A well-preserved certificate of membership in the Society issued to Dr. Terry on the payment of \$1.00 into the Treasury is dated April 17, 1903. In a form letter, dated March 4, 1905, signed by the President and Vice-President (P. H. Felker) and addressed "To the Members of the Audubon Society of Missouri" is an urgent request "to write At ONCE to the Governor suggesting the appointment of Mr. August Reese of St. Louis, as State Game Warden", because, it is pointed out, the favorable results expected from the Audubon Society's bill for the protection of birds and game which would become a law, would depend, largely, upon the character and ability of the person who would be appointed game warden under its provisions.

The next record of minutes reported a meeting held in the office of the secretary on November 11, 1907; no quorum being present the meeting was adjourned until December 4. Under this date are found rather extensive minutes, signed not only by the secretary but also by the president and vice-president. The year had brought discouragement to the Society. The Audubon Bird and Game Bill which the Society was certain would become law, as it had already been passed at session of the preceding Legislature, was practically killed, or rendered inert, by amendments passed by the Legislature just adjourned. This act of the Legislature was most discouraging, for one of the chief aims of the Audubon Society was the furthering of bird protection through the law. New officers were elected: Harry R. Walmsley, L. A. Goodman, and Sidney J. Hare; president, vice-president and secretary, respectively. Since they all lived in Kansas City, enthusiasm and support from members in the St. Louis region declined.

Concern over this situation was shown in the next records, 1913, in the correspondence and minutes of the meetings of a Committee on Bird Protection, of which Dr. Terry was a member. Others in that group were

Mr. R. H. Coburn, Reverend Henry Mizner, Mr. Otto Widmann, Mr. Roger Baldwin and Dr. Hermann von Schrenk, and later, Mr. P. H. Felker and Mr. T. H. McKittrick, Jr. At an early meeting there occurred "A discussion inquiring into measures at present in operation in and about St. Louis", which indicated lack of information in several areas. These were to be looked into and findings reported at the next meeting. Widmann agreed to investigate the game laws affecting this region and the present state of the Missouri Audubon Society; Mizner, the teaching in the public schools dealing with birds; and Terry, any efforts being made in the way of bird protection in the public parks. Only Mizner and Terry attended the November 14th meeting and both brought typed reports of their findings. Briefly, their reports show that one hour of Nature Study per week was required in the Public Schools with a very small part of that given to birds and that Dwight Davis, the Park Commissioner, was generous and sympathetic toward the inquiry and would welcome suggestions of ways to protect birds in the Parks. Widmann wrote, in answer to a letter from Terry, that he had obtained information concerning game laws and Audubon Societies in other states, recommended that a deputy game warden be employed and publicity given to his performance because, "People don't know that the killing of birds is against the law and this is the best way to spread the news." He wrote further that he was willing to come to the City Club once more on the next Friday, but that he did "not think it the proper place for a getting-together of a large body of people, such as we need, esp. since we have to get the aid of the ladies without whom nothing can be done now-a-days."

This small group was determined to breathe new life into the Society. That their efforts were markedly successful in re-invigorating it and in arousing increased enthusiasm, is evinced by the fact that when new officers were elected in August, 1914, two members of that group were chosen: Mr. McKittrick as Treasurer and Dr. Terry as President. Other officers were Miss Rowena Clarke of Kirkwood as Secretary, and Mr. Ralph Hoffman of Kansas City as Vice-President.

One of the first acts of the new officers was to alert all former members, as well as potential new members, to the Society's revival and to canvass them for dues. Even though the response was good Dr. Terry talked of resigning from the executive committee but was persuaded by the secretary to continue "and so give us the benefit of your experience and wisdom." The effort he put into the organization must have been very time-consuming for not only were there weekly executive committee meetings, but also letters from other regions of Missouri asking for "information about how to organize a Junior Society in a hurry", from young people about identification of a particular bird, etc., all of which Dr. Terry answered in an encouraging tone. He was in communication with the National Association of Audubon Societies regarding "suitable material for gratuitous publication in country newspapers" in neighboring states as well as Missouri in order to give the widest possible publicity to the reorganization of the Audubon Society of Missouri. The annual meeting was held on November 9, 1914, at the Central Public Library at 5:00 p.m.

Of great interest is the account of activities of the succeeding twelve months, which Dr. Terry reported at the annual meeting on November 9, 1915, held at the same place and time as the preceeding year. Fourteen meetings of the executive committee had been held; the president had resigned on May 7 (there is no indication of a successor); and progress made toward the two chief objectives was reviewed. The first objective was to secure for membership those persons throughout the State who had given evidence of a deep interest in bird life: 108 are listed as 2 patron. 22 life and 84

annual members. Toward accomplishing the second objective, viz., "the creation of sentiment among the people of the State favoring a better understanding of nature and a more sympathetic attitude toward wild life," the organization of Junior Audubon Societies had been increased to cover "about half the counties in the state", articles on birds were published in the newspapers, and talks and addresses on birds and "to some extent excursions into the country" were made. It was reported also that the Vice-President, Hoffman, had established an active bird club in Kansas City and the secretary, Miss Rowena Clarke, was credited with stimulating the organization of a bird club in St. Louis.

The St. Louis Bird Club

(since 1947, The St. Louis Audubon Society)

Dr. Terry asked J. A. Drushel of Teacher's College and E. H. Christie of the Hodgen School in letters, dated November 12, 1915, "to draft by-laws for the St. Louis Bird Club", suggesting that they be "few and simple and framed so as to invite a popular rather than a scientific membership." A typed copy of the Constitution, By-Laws and list of Charter Members (5 individuals and 7 couples, including Dr. and Mrs. Terry) is preserved. Although no record of details is found concerning further steps of the organizing process, it is apparent from correspondence that Terry became president, E. H. Christie, vice-president, and Mrs. Jesse M. Greenman, secretary-treasurer. The dues were 50¢ a year.



DR. TERRY IN 1923 AT SULPHUR-SALINE SPRING, JEFFERSON COUNTY

Included with the correspondence of this period asking for advice and suggestions of good lecturers is a long, hand-written reply, dated December 17, 1915, from Louis A. Fuertes, president of the Cayuga Bird Club, Ithaca, New York, and a friend of Dr. Terry since his Cornell days.

" . . . The best talkers I know at present are E. H. Baynes (enclosure herewith) and Dr. A. A. Allen, of the Zool. Dept. here. He has much to interest an audience—particularly a young one . . .

" . . . I do quite a good deal of talking around on various phases of bird study, and travel after birds, but to lay down my regular work of painting and take such a long journey for a single talk would probably cost more than you would feel justified in spending . . ."

Dr. Terry acted on the first suggestion of Fuertes by initiating correspondence on January 4th with Ernest Harold Baynes, whose stationery indicated that he was General Manager of The Meriden Bird Club, Inc., Meriden, New Hampshire, "The Bird Village". Baynes replied promptly with the proposal that he give an illustrated lecture on the 17th, the date was set for the 29th, but had to be postponed because of a critical illness of Mr. Baynes' sister. His secretary suggested that March would be a good time since he would be in this vicinity then. But, even though the brochures, pamphlets and photographs from New Hampshire showed Baynes to have irresistible charm, Dr. Terry felt that, if possible, an earlier date was needed because "a great deal could be done toward uniting the efforts of bird lovers and stimulating interest in those who have given no thought to bird conservation, if a representative man would come to St. Louis now." Frank M. Chapman of the American Museum of Natural History was approached with Ernest Thompson-Seton to be "the next choice if he is within the range of our pocket-books", and then J. Gilbert Pearson, President of the National Association of Audubon Societies.

Two days after Chapman declined, Baynes' secretary wrote on February 5 suggesting the date of March 4th, "on the terms he offered you in his first letter; namely \$75 for one lecture, and \$25 additional for a lecture for the school children, the lantern and operator to be supplied in both cases." On submission of a formal application it was arranged with Ben Blewett, Superintendent of Instruction, and R. M. Milligan, Commissioner of School Buildings, to use the Auditorium of Soldan High School for the children's lecture, entitled "How to Make Friends with the Birds", to be given at 4:00 p.m. The Vice-president, E. H. Christie, was to be in charge and introduce the speaker. Mr. Blewett agreed to have the announcement of the lecture, which was sent to him by Dr. Terry, distributed to all the principals for publicity by them to teachers and pupils of the public schools. No detail in the preparation was omitted — Mr. Powell, Principal of Soldan, arranged with Mr. Kirby, a physics teacher, to operate the lantern.

The evening lecture on the subject of "Wild Birds and How to Attract Them", was to be given in the Auditorium of Washington University Medical School with Dr. Terry introducing the speaker. Printed invitations to the evening lecture, each with a guest's name written in, included directions for reaching the Auditorium by street car and a rather lengthy statement about the St. Louis Bird Club, its purpose, proposed plans and hoped-for results, as well as a card of admission. Dr. Terry's letter of appreciation for use of the respective auditoriums indicated that both lectures were successful: to Mr. Blewett, "There was a large and appreciative audience of teachers and children and I am sure you would have been delighted to witness the interest

17

and enthusiasm as the lecture proceeded"; and to Dr. Philip A. Shaffer, Dean of the Medical School, "It may be a satisfaction for you to know that the audience was large and representative of the best in St. Louis."

Further correspondence from Baynes, now under the letter head of "The Audubon Bird-House Company, Meriden, N. H.", concerns his wish to have a "a live agency in St. Louis . . . for our products" which consisted of "Berlepsch nest boxes, Audubon, Weathercock and automatic food houses, bird baths, and other appliances for attracting wild birds" and cat traps. It appears that some time earlier Charles M. Rice had given one order with "the usual 15% discount . . . but since then has done no business for us". Various suggestions for a suitable agent were made by Dr. Terry and later correspondence implies that A. W. Lambert, President of the Westover Nursery Company, was interested in the proposal, which by this time carried a 20% discount. (On May 22, Mr. Lambert sent \$25.00 in payment of dues as a patron in the St. Louis Bird Club. Dr. Terry forwarded the check to the Treasurer with the notation, "Isn't this a prize!") Apparently Dr. Terry had placed an order in his own name for Mr. Baynes asked him "to accept the nest boxes . . . with my compliments." Dr. Terry then explained that he and a friend (Dr. Walter Mills, Professor of Radiology) had planned to give them to the Bird Club who in turn would "present them to the Park Commissioner to be placed in Forest Park with appropriate ceremonies, all to be duly recorded in the newspapers." These plans succeeded — another accomplishment not only in attracting birds to St. Louis, but also in attracting the attention of the public to birds.

In addition to Baynes' lecture the St. Louis Bird Club fostered another public event. It was arranged with the Famous and Barr Company to sponsor a contest of building bird houses by both boys and girls for wrens, blue birds and purple martins. The building of the bird houses was to be directed and the results for the prizes to be judged by the St. Louis Bird Club. A list of 7 references on how to build bird houses is among the papers as well as an outline of a talk which Dr. Terry must have given on the subject at Famous-Barr on February 12. There were first and second prizes for each type of house and for both a boy and a girl; the first prize for the martin house was \$15.00 and the second prize for the blue bird house, \$2.50, with the wren house valued between these extremes. All finished houses were to be deposited with the Famous and Barr Company on or before February 15, judged for prizes, and to remain on exhibit one week. Every boy and girl presenting a bird house would receive a six months subscription to the popular magazine, "Bird-Lore", the publication of the National Association of Audubon Societies. And each contestant was encouraged to have his bird house set up for use with the help of the Club. It was pointed out that no one of these three kinds of birds could be expected to build a nest about homes east of Grand Avenue except in extreme northern and southern parts of the city, that any one of the three might locate between Grand and Taylor Avenues, and that the best chance was west of Taylor in any quiet place. Nelson Cunliff, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, offered to have any donated house erected "in some proper place in that portion of any park in the City closest to the residence of the donor" with the idea that the donor might have the opportunity to watch the birds that hopefully would occupy it.

A letter (March 18, 1916) from Hermann Schwarz, (a much younger brother of Frank Schwarz, the taxidermist), president and treasurer of the Hermann Schwarz Sample Company, (which listed telephone numbers with both the companies then operating in St. Louis: Kinloch and Bell), asked to have information sent to Albert Schmidt regarding requirements for mem-

bership in the Bird Club for his Scout Troop 22. The letter continued, "I am seriously thinking of organizing a branch of the St. Louis Bird Club, in Webster Groves. If you could, at an early date, arrange to have a speaker for us I will be pleased to make arrangements . . . This should be done very soon, if possible." It is intriguing to wonder whether, by this thought, Herman Schwarz fathered the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, which was organized in 1920 and incorporated in 1940. Max Schwarz, his nephew of about the same age, was its first Vice-president. (Hermann's great nephew, Paul, Jr., reports that his Uncle Max, now 82 years old, continues to be active in their firm, the first in the United States to be concerned with taxidermy.)

Dr. Terry made final arrangements by letter on March 20, 1916, with A. J. Cicardi for a meeting of the St. Louis Bird Club at his restaurant, Delmar and Euclid Avenues, "on March 25 at one o'clock, luncheon ready to be served in accordance with your menu submitted at 50¢ per plate. I guarantee 30 or more . . . As there will be speaking I hope you will make every effort to give us a quiet place for our meeting." The agenda for the meeting included 9 topics, most of which had several subdivisions. Interest was high and progress was being made.

Communications with the Alton Bird Club, (which had been organized by Miss Eunice Smith), encouragement to establish a Bird Club in Springfield, Missouri, lists of birds seen in Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden, an admission card to a lecture by Louis Agassiz Fuytes under the auspices of the Washington University Association, and a printed invitation to another lecture by Fuytes on the next day, December 6, 1916, from The Audubon Society of Missouri and the St. Louis Bird Club constitute some of the other records of this year.

Another series of papers, beginning on May 9 and extending into 1917, shows that Dr. Terry stimulated and guided the Club into giving strong and active support to a bill, known as *Migratory Bird Treaty Act*, which had been introduced into the U.S. Senate for the purpose of establishing a treaty between this country and Canada for the protection of migratory birds that live part of their lives in each of the two countries and are "either useful to man or are harmless". The bill was "strongly opposed by western states — particularly Missouri". Letters (in excellent condition due to the fine quality of the stationery!) addressed to Mrs. Greenman (secretary of the Bird Club) acknowledging the Club's support of the proposed legislation are found from Champ Clark, L. C. Dyer, William L. Igou and Jacob E. Meeker, all members from Missouri of the U.S. House of Representatives and, most exciting of all, a letter from J. P. Tumulty, Secretary to the President (Woodrow Wilson), indicating that "it will be brought to the President's attention at the first opportunity." The *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* was passed in 1918 and has proved to be one of the most important laws in our country for the protection of migrating birds as well as for spawning further laws for the protection of game and birds. From it have resulted greatly coordinated State laws relating to migratory game birds, increased power of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to regulate within certain limits the capture, possession and disposition of migratory birds, and because of its success, wide attention among other nations. The fact that our Society played an active part in bringing about this law more than fifty years ago should not only give us pride, but also stimulate us in present endeavors.

Other evidence for the year 1917 shows continued interest and drive on the part of the bird enthusiasts. Florence Hayward wrote on February 8 that she contemplated the establishment of a bird sanctuary with definite

locations in mind which she did not disclose. Perhaps her thought stimulated action on the part of the Club. At any rate, letters were sent on March 8 to the Bellefontaine, Valhalla, and Calvary Cemetery Associations indicating that, "At the suggestion of the Committee of the St. Louis Bird Club, I am enclosing a little paper on Cemeteries as bird sanctuaries . . . our club is at your service for suggestions in regard to your particular problems in the field of bird protection."

Announcements printed on penny postcards show that bird walks were held during April on Saturdays in Shaw's Garden and Forest Park and on Sundays in Shaw's Garden and O'Fallon Park, and that a Field Day was called at Creve Coeur Lake on May 5th, all under the direction of bird leaders. A booklet (referred to as a pamphlet), "A List of One Hundred Common Birds of St. Louis and Vicinity, Arranged by the St. Louis Bird Club", (one stained copy, showing Dr. Terry's check-marks is present), was obtainable at Vandervoort's for 10c a copy. A long letter from the secretary of the National Association of Audubon Societies, (T. Gilbert Pearson), dated April 20, 1917, expressed congratulations to the Club on the interest it had developed in St. Louis "in bird-study and bird-protective matters" and extended an invitation to affiliate with the National Association. A shorter letter on November 23 acknowledged receipt of the Club's application for membership, implied acceptance, and urged the enrollment of sustaining members.

Miss Lillie Ernst, Principal of the Cote Brillante School, was thanked by Dr. Terry on March 31 for "the start you gave the little pamphlets on St. Louis birds"; on April 19 he asked her to act as chairman of a standing Committee on "Education", and to select the other members, in order to develop and extend the teaching about birds in the public schools by ascertaining the present conditions and making recommendations for improvement. Her reply on April 24 indicated willingness to serve but hesitancy to accept on the basis of doubts of her ability and little unassigned time. Undaunted, Dr. Terry enlisted the cooperation of L. M. Dougan and his two committee members, Mr. Christie and Miss Louise Becker, to submit a plan to the Executive Committee of ways to interest the schools in the work of the Bird Club. Lecturers were drafted from the local area for Club meetings, and in collaboration with the Audubon Society of Missouri, (Hermann von Schrenk was now its president and Dr. Terry still treasurer), and the St. Louis Garden Club, Mr. Baynes was procured for a lecture on January 18, 1918, with a second to be given to the school children.

But there were moments of discouragement, too. The first item in 1918 is a letter written in long hand by Dr. Terry on January 23 to Mrs. Greenman in which he discussed the settling of bills with the other societies that were related to the lecture, despaired over lack of publicity, and expressed resignation to the fact that the house was not crowded. The last part of the letter summarizes the reasons which were more than enough to justify his low spirits:

" On the whole it is as much as could be expected with:

The president of the	Audub. Society in Seattle
" " " "	Garden Club " " "
" secretary " "	Bird Club on the sick list
" " " "	Aud. Soc. " " " "
" vice pres. " "	Garden Club " " "
" pres. " "	Bird " " " "

Mr. Baynes second lecture was under the direction of Mr. Hoffman who went lame at the time of the event. "Can you beat it?" "

The year continued with the usual activities and with a special focus on plans for developing a bird sanctuary in a tract of land adjacent to O'Fallon Park. Recommendations for planting trees, shrubs and vines in the Sanctuary and very specific directions for placing nesting boxes for many different kinds of birds are preserved, not only in typed form on six and one-half large sheets, but also as the first draft in Dr. Terry's handwriting. Somewhat later, the public's attention was called to the Sanctuary by Vion Papin in a feature article in the Post-Dispatch Sunday Magazine (January 11, 1920) entitled "St. Louis Plans Finest Bird Sanctuary". The ground of slightly more than eight acres between O'Fallon Park and Bellefontaine Cemetery had belonged to the Catholic Church and was known as the New Bremen Cemetery. Archbishop Glennon had given it to the city two years before, "but with the proviso that it should not be used for recreational purposes; that is, swimming pools, playgrounds, etc., were not to be located upon it." And still later (June, 1922) Dr. Terry was pleased to write to Nelson Cunliff, Director of Public Welfare, that the members of the Bird Club had found the sanctuary in O'Fallon Park to be well-developed with "the bird fountain in operation and in use . . . grain planted and growing in the open spaces, shrubs and trees set out, the grading and filling-in accomplished and above everything else in importance the completion of a very slightly fence on Taylor Avenue. I found on my visit today the sanctuary filled with singing birds, and there were birds nesting on the premises."

Early in 1919 the St. Louis Bird Club was saddened by the death of Mrs. Kelton White on January 17 from influenza. Dr. Terry paid her a beautiful tribute, probably written as a resolution to be included in the minutes of the organization. She had served the Club well as a leader of children's excursions to the woods and fields, as a helpful and efficient guide in the regular bird walks, and as secretary-treasurer. Her successor, Mrs. James Harrison, was elected in February for the remainder of the fiscal year, after which Miss Jennie F. Chase filled the office. A good summary of factual information concerning the St. Louis Bird Club is found in a reply by Dr. Terry dated March 27 to a request from the Secretary-Treasurer of the New Jersey Audubon Society. The pertinent paragraph is as follows:

"The St. Louis Bird Club was organized in 1916; the membership at present is approximately 450, including both adults and juniors. Before the war meetings were held once a month during winter at which no business was transacted but lectures and addresses were given; bird walks are carried out on Saturday mornings in spring; the annual meeting is devoted to business and this session is followed by a luncheon; the Executive Committee, consisting of the officers and one other member, meets frequently throughout the year. The Club is affiliated with the National Association of Audubon Societies, Audubon Society of Missouri and the Missouri Fish and Game League, cooperating with these organizations in the work of conservation and participating and enjoying the privileges of lectures, field meets, literature, etc. The Public Library of St. Louis cares for the literature which the Club receives and makes it available for all readers. A large part of our membership is among school teachers and through them an important part of the work of the Club is carried out in interesting and stimulating children in bird study. The Park Commissioner of St. Louis has responded to suggestions of the Club in the way of placing nesting boxes, planting, etc. If you will find the last number of the 'Superintendent of Parks Journal' you will see by an article which I have written that

11

the Park Commissioner has begun the development of a bird sanctuary adjoining one of our parks. What success the Club has enjoyed I ascribe to the enthusiasm and activity of a few members who are able to spread their spirit among the people with whom they come in contact."

Other evidence indicates that membership fees were still 50¢ for adults and 10¢ for children under 16 years of age and that the money was used mainly as fees for special lecturers. Among the mementoes are found two button-type celluloid pins bearing a picture of a meadow lark. These were worn by the junior members and the correspondence indicates that they were in great demand.

It was inevitable that the affairs of the Audubon Society of Missouri and the St. Louis Bird Club became inextricably interwoven with so many of the same dedicated people concerned with both.

Following the annual meeting of the Audubon Society of Missouri on December 19, 1919, a lecture illustrated by stereopticon was given by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser of the Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D.C., on "The habits of wild ducks and geese and measures for their protection." It was attended by "a large audience of nature lovers and sportsmen and an interesting and animated discussion followed."

A letter written on January 21, 1921, asked Mr. Baynes to cooperate in a change of plan from the one for which he had been engaged to speak at the meeting of the Bird Club. Dr. Terry explained that the wide-spread interest in the press and among organizations, viz., "the Bird Club, Audubon Society, State Fish and Game League, Lumberman's Association, and others", concerning conservation of wild life in the State indicated the need for adoption of "a resolution at the conclusion of the meeting which will signify the importance of conserving the wild life of the State with recommendation for the appointment of a conservation commission". Mr. Baynes agreed to help put those present "in the mood." Apparently work progressed at a feverish pace for on February 24 a bill was presented to Governor Hyde for a Department of Conservation for Missouri. It had been drafted by the Conservation Conference Committee — Frederick Dunlap, F. J. Wielandy, R. J. Terry, H. F. Mardorf, W. P. Gruner, F. L. Rand, H. von Schrenk, Clark McAdams.

A number of communications concerned with an effort to correct the situation in Forest Park in which live migratory birds were exhibited by the Zoo are found. These began in April, 1921, and continued into November with increasing intensity as the dates advanced. Although there had been exhibits of waterfowls, pheasants, parrots and the larger birds of prey, during the spring "mocking birds in some manner found their way from their nests in the park into the cages." The Zoological Board believed that it was acting in the interests of education and within the law, but nevertheless agreed to liberate the mocking birds on September 17th. Dr. Terry wrote to the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey that, "Such an argument (i.e., acting in the interests of education) betrays the shallow understanding which these gentlemen have on the whole question of wild life and its significance to human beings", and protested against the issuing of a permit to the Zoological Board of Control of the Forest Park Zoo to collect birds for exhibition in the Zoo. He was advised by the Chief that no permit was necessary for the Zoo to either possess or purchase migratory birds for scientific purposes but that a permit was necessary "to take or capture any live birds for such purposes". No person could be found who had seen the

birds taken or captured but the newspapers had taken a firm position in supporting the Society's protest and the cause of bird protection was no doubt aided by the publicity.

What Luther Ely Smith had done is not apparent but a letter from Dr. Terry on May 31, 1922, congratulated him, "on the progress you are making with the Zoo Board on the Oakland plan. It may be that this is the way to get attention to the development of a bird sanctuary in Forest Park in the woods back of the Art Museum." Ever promoting the activities of the Club, he appointed Mrs. Greenman to the Chairmanship of a Committee on Publicity, Mrs. Bray on Bird Sanctuary, and Mrs. Claves on Bird Activities. At this time he also asked George Mackay to act as legal advisor for the Bird Club. That he did not slight the Audubon Society of Missouri is evidenced in a letter from W. M. Chauvenet on July 21 from Lake George, New York in which he accepted Dr. Terry's appointment as its Vice-president.

On his return to St. Louis in September from a vacation, probably in Wisconsin, Dr. Terry found a letter from the Post-Dispatch Radio Station KSD asking him to talk on one of its programs on some phase of bird life, which would be of equal interest in all parts of the United States as well as Canada and Mexico. His reply shows not only his modesty but shyness as well:

"... I regret, however, that I cannot undertake to do this for the reason that I am an amateur in bird matters, my knowledge and experience hardly justify the place that my friends have given me in the bird organizations in St. Louis. I am sure it would be a mistake to put me on your programme when I am so badly qualified to speak before a large audience and while there are experts in the field."

He succeeded again in bringing an expert to St. Louis for in October Professor Arthur A. Allen of Cornell came to lecture before an audience made up largely of members of the Academy of Science, the State Audubon Society and the Bird Club.

During the next decade, 1923-33, the activities of both the Audubon Society and the Bird Club must have been tempered by apathy and turbulence. The correspondence is very much reduced. One letter of interest to us is found from Homer R. Bolen, State Teachers College, Cape Girardeau, dated October 11, 1926, asking Dr. Terry as secretary of the Audubon Society what was being done in the way of bird study and conservation, in what ways the Cape Girardeau Society with "a membership of eighteen or twenty" could cooperate with the State Society, and to send a list of lecturers. For this last request Dr. Terry wrote, "There are a good many lecturers in the field but only a few who in my opinion really can properly convey the message that will stimulate interest and activity in bird matters and these are hard to obtain. We depended upon Ernest Harold Baynes who died a year ago . . ." The letter was cordial and gracious throughout and may have played a significant part in bringing Mr. Bolen into the fold of the Society to which he has given such good, long-time service.

Another set of letters reveals that Dr. Terry was appointed by T. Gilbert Pearson on February 23, 1932, to be the formal representative from Missouri on the Advisory Board of the National Association. Rudolf Bennitt, University of Missouri, active in the Missouri Society and all its conservation undertakings, wrote to Dr. Terry: "This will mean closer cooperation between this State and the Association than has been possible in the past."

There was begun in this period a move for the repeal of "the contradictory and thoroughly unsatisfactory bounty law on hawks and owls" and much correspondence extending over the next several years pertains to it.

On March 17, 1933, Dr. Terry replied to an admonishing letter from T. Gilbert Pearson. Mr. Pearson had come across a note in the March 8 issue of the St. Louis Bird Club Bulletin which apparently did not show loyalty to or respect for the integrity and devotion of the officers and directors of the National Association. The tone of Dr. Terry's reply was gracious with reassurance that the note did not reflect the attitude of the Club as a whole toward the National Society, that he would do all he could to stop the publishing of such notes, and with the revealing statement, "I am not an officer of the Club or even a member of its Executive Committee." Responding to an inquiring letter from Luther Ely Smith he wrote: "My action in resigning the presidency was the conventional one when the President's Cabinet does not sustain him." Dr. Donald M. Hetler succeeded him.

During November, 1933, Dr. Terry resigned as secretary of the Missouri Audubon Society and Rudolph Bennitt replaced him. Dr. Bennitt had learned from the October 21 issue of the St. Louis Bird Club Bulletin of Miss Ernst's proposal for a "Widmann Society" and of the details of the proposal from Sterling P. Jones. Whether it was meant to compete with or to supercede the existing bird organizations it not clear. At any rate Bennitt wrote on November 16 to Dr. Terry, "... but Miss Ernst seems to have no idea of the existence of the Missouri Audubon Society; if she had, I cannot conceive of her projecting another state organization to compete with it." And later, "... I am going to need a great deal of help from you in many ways, not to mention the other activities of the Audubon Society of which you ought to continue to be in charge — such as its connection with the National Association, the sponsoring of the hawk and owl bill, and other things. . . in particular we can turn Miss Ernst's tremendous energy into more profitable channels." Two long letters to Dr. Terry from Dr. Bennitt in December, 1933, asking for advice on and explanations of a number of different problems were answered on December 29 in part as follows:

"... I think you give too much weight to the importance of the St. Louis Bird Club in relation to the reorganization of the Audubon Society . . . What the outcome of the present dissention will be I cannot say, but I can see no reason why the performances of this Club at the present time should affect the reorganization of the Audubon Society. However I feel sure that when the present unpleasant feelings have subsided the not so emotional members of the Club will give their support to our State organization."

On March 8, 1934, in a letter to Dr. Bennitt, Hermann von Schrenk tendered his resignation as president of the Audubon Society of Missouri — "... it will be impossible for me to undertake any further work in connection with the Society." Dr. Bennitt continued to ask Dr. Terry for advice. Before the business meeting, held in Columbia on April 14, Bennitt circulated among the membership seven typed single-spaced pages (8½"x14") of information: the agenda of the forthcoming meeting with comments, the outlook for Missouri and for the Society, suggested changes in the By-Laws to be considered (extending over more than 3 pages), and the list of 167 members as of March 18, 1934. At the meeting Mr. A. E. Shirling of Teachers College, Kansas City, was elected president, Homer G. Bolen treasurer, and Bennitt was continued as secretary. There is no indication of who was elected vice-president (the office had been vacant since the death of Chauvenet), although before the meeting Bennitt hoped "that Sterling Jones



DR. TERRY ON HIS NINETIETH BIRTHDAY, READING THE GREETING FROM
THE ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

or some one of his calibre from St. Louis, may be the new Vice-President." On May 1 the new president wrote to ask Dr. Terry to continue his efforts to make Missouri safer for hawks and owls and to head a committee to conduct a campaign for the revision of the present law. Dr. Terry agreed.

Further evidence of Dr. Terry's insistence on high standards for the Bird Club and his efforts to maintain its relation with the National Association is found in a letter during this same year. It was a reply to inquiries on two occasions from T. Gilbert Pearson asking for explanations of misleading statements in the Bulletin, to which Dr. Terry replied in part,

"... I have been compelled to discontinue contributing to the St. Louis Bird Club Bulletin because the Editorial Committee, in my opinion, is not competent to handle a publication of this sort, composed as it is of inexperienced persons, one of whom is a boy in school.

"... I think you will understand from this that the statement you refer to on dues was written through some misunderstanding."

In October of 1934 he accepted the invitation of Frank M. Chapman, American Museum of Natural History, to membership on the Advisory Council of Bird-Lore: "I cannot fill the place left vacant by Dr. Widmann, but I shall try to be useful in the work of the Council." (Otto Widmann had died on November 26, 1933, in his 93rd year.)

A distressing correspondence with George P. Vierheller, Director of the Zoo, not without some amusing overtones, occurred in the late fall. In the preceding spring a flock of Ruddy Sheldrakes was discovered at Horseshoe Lake, Illinois, of which a specimen was collected and reported by Miss Ernst. The appearance of this European duck in the Mississippi Valley was so un-

(Page 16 missing)

(Page 17 missing)

"So be my passing!
My task accomplished and the long day done,
My wages taken, and in my heart
Some late lark singing,
Let me be gathered to the quiet west.
The sundown splendid and serene,
Death."

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Compiled by J. EARL COMFORT

Orchard Farm, Mo., 38° 52'N, 90° 26'W (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Orchard Farm, Mo., along Missouri side of Mississippi River: bottomlands, tilled fields and fallow fields; bottomlands and sloughs 25%, open fields 75%) December 23: 7:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Clear: temperature 13 degrees to 28 degrees: wind nnw, 6-4 miles per hour: ground bare of snow, but frozen, river open, but lakes frozen. Nineteen observers in 5 parties. Total party hours, 48 (31 on foot, 17 by car); total party miles, 205 (23 on foot, 182 by car). Totals by species: Snow goose, 1120; blue goose, 340; mallard, 762; pintail, 11; American wigeon, 4; lesser scaup, 65; Common goldeneye, 11; hooded merganser, 1; red-tailed hawk, 28; red-shouldered hawk, 2; rough-legged hawk, 2; bald eagle, 6; marsh hawk, 13; sparrow hawk, 19; bobwhite, 23; herring gull, 2; ring-billed gull, 46; mourning dove, 116; horned owl, 1; snowy owl, 1; short-eared owl, 2; belted kingfisher, 2; yellow-shafted flicker, 32; pileated woodpecker, 2; red-bellied woodpecker, 23; red-headed woodpecker, 7; hairy woodpecker, 11; downy woodpecker, 19; horned lark, 96; bluejay, 27; common crow, 1,324; black-capped chickadee, 33; tufted titmouse, 23; white-breasted nuthatch, 4; Carolina wren, 14; mockingbird, 14; robin, 17; golden-crowned kinglet, 8; cedar waxwing, 40; logger-head shrike, 4; starling, 892; house sparrow, 1211; European tree sparrow, 84; Eastern meadowlark, 114; red-winged blackbird, 864; rusty blackbird, 53; common grackle, 2313; brown-headed cowbird, 5; cardinal, 97; American goldfinch, 36; rufous-sided towhee, 1; slate-colored junco, 137; tree sparrow, 86; field sparrow, 3; white-crowned sparrow, 6; swamp sparrow, 1; song sparrow, 17. Total 57 species, about 10,195 individuals. Participants, Sam Alfend, Kathryn Arhos, Paul Bauer, Alberta Bolinger, Andy Bromet, Earl Comfort (compiler), Edgar Denison, Peg Feigley, K. E. Greene, D. Huber and his 2 sons, Earl Hath, Joel Massie, Kay Mueller, Ernest Mueller, Eleonore (Lorli) Nelson, Sally Vasse, Dorothea Vogel, Mary Wiese and George Winter.

Third Baptist Church, Grand and Washington Aves.

"WINGS OF THE WILD"

ALVAH W. SANBORN

Friday, February 23, 1968 — 8:15 P.M.

Here is the story of birds and how they live. These beautiful and melodious creatures whose power of flight has fascinated mankind through the ages, come in for close scrutiny through the photographic skill of Alvah W. Sanborn of Lenox, Mass. The unique qualities of feathers, various food-procuring methods, protection, courtship, breeding and raising of young are illustrated by pictures of more than sixty species. An entertaining and informative program, presented with an authoritative narration.

12

ST. LOUIS AREA 1967 BIRDING IN BRIEF REVIEW

By J. EARL COMFORT

A survey of the 1967 birding in the St. Louis Area within a radius of 50 miles of the city reveals there were many exciting and pleasant hours afield resulting in a total of 277 species on our composite list authored by competent bird watchers. The list was aided and abetted by "armchair" birders who attract birds to their feeders. This isn't to say the back yard birders don't go afield. Quite naturally most field trip birders also become armchair listers through their feeders and back (and front) yard birding, especially in the warbler migration season.

Five of the species were deemed rare enough to demand special mention. First on the list of five accidentals was a black-legged kittiwake seen in Missouri at the Alton Lake near the Mississippi River Alton Dam by Dick and Mitzi Anderson on the 29th of January. Second was a scissor-tailed flycatcher in Illinois down the Mississippi River levees below the St. Louis Jefferson Barracks Bridge, first spotted by Jim Ruschill, who pointed it out to his many excited companions of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society birding group May 20th. Third in importance was a Sabine's gull on September 28th at Illinois Swan Lake of the Calhoun Unit of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge. The bird was identified by Sally Vasse, of the unit, who spread the word by phone resulting in its listing by Dick Anderson and Paul Bauer in the P.M. of the same day. Fourth was the vermilion flycatcher at the August A. Busch Memorial Wildlife Area in St. Charles County on the 30th of September, identified by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Schaefer and Lynn Schaefer. The Schaefers reported there were 3 immatures or females with a male in breeding plumage. The findings reported the accidental birds to others resulting in many listers because the male was found on practically every trip to Busch by Birders through November 19th. Last on this great list was a snowy owl sighted by Sally Vasse in St. Charles County on the St. Louis Audubon Christmas bird count on December 23rd centered on Orchard Farms. Thanks to Sally there were several of this snowy owl listers on this date and on later dates. Only the kittiwake and scissortail were first modern area records. The kittiwake, Sabine's and vermilion were farthest from their natural range.

Some other rare species of 1967 in their AOU order listing were common loon, red-necked grebe, eared grebe, whistling swan, oldsquaw, white-winged scoter, Mississippi Kite, Harlan's hawk, ruddy turnstone, Hudsonian godwit, glaucous gull, yellow-headed blackbird, western tanager, common redpoll, sharp-tailed sparrow and Smith's longspur.

There were 35 species in the big finch family, 33 kinds of warblers, 29 shorebirds, 22 ducks and 17 in the predator family to make up almost one half of the total of 277 species.

Aiding and abetting in the big total list were the many field nature trips of the year including the St. Louis Audubon Society Forest Park and Shaw's Garden bird walks for the public in April and May, the 19 Audubon Shaw's Garden Arboretum nature hikes and the many Webster Groves Nature Study Society visits with Nature. Checking the birds on the local nature hikes gave us many hours of fascination and pleasure.

There were 13 birders, locally, with 200 or more area species in 1967, one less than in the previous year. The 200 list observers were Kathryn Arhos with 249, Dr. Ralph Laffey, 230, Paul Bauer, 225, Henrietta Lamert, 214, Andy Bromet, 213, Earl Comfort, 213, Dick Anderson, 212, Earl Hath, 211, Sally Vasse, 208, Bob Guenther, 204, Marge Self, 204, Helen Hill, 203, and Winnifred Meloy, 202. Marge and Andy were the only 1967 200 listers not on this coveted list in 1966.

Paul Bauer

Item (A)

Original Version of
History from 1968

BALD EAGLES

The St. Louis Audubon Society has again been asked to participate in the National Society's census of the American Bald Eagle.

The date is Saturday, February 17, 1968. The area is the Mississippi River from the Winfield Dam north to Saverton. We have the able leadership of J. McClune Dudley and Gus Altus of Louisiana, together with John Foster, Manager of the Clarence Cannon Wildlife Refuge.

All who would like to participate should meet at Duvall's Restaurant at Clarksville, Missouri at 9:30 A.M. It is reached by following Interstate 70 to St. Peters, then north on Route 79.

Our meeting place at Duvall's will be a banquet room on the lower level, below the main restaurant. The Audubon Society will serve free coffee and rolls beginning at 9:30 A.M.

After the count is completed the Warren Lammerts will have open house where you can eat your lunch and have hot coffee.

Another exciting day is in prospect.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON BULLETIN

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